

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-10 (Cancelled)

11. **(New)** An encoding method for encoding an image signal corresponding to a plurality of frames included in a video sequence, said method comprising:

encoding said image signal to obtain a bitstream of encoded image signal;

generating a display cycle identifier operable to indicate if all intervals between image display times of successive frames in the plurality of frames included in the video sequence are either constant or can be variable, the display cycle identifier being included in each header of the video sequence; and

multiplexing said display cycle identifier and said bitstream.